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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

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VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA **November 2014**

NOTE:

It is no longer necessary to do the background checks with the Vacaville Police Department for Merriment on Main.

Jerry, KD6WKY

ARRL PIO Certification Class

I am pleased to announce that East Bay ASM David Haycock KI6AWR andSanta Clara Valley PIC Suellen Petersen K6CPA have arranged to presentpart 2 of the ARRL PIO Certification Class (Part 1 was presented atPacificon). This will be a full 2 day event that will include the finalexamination. Anyone interested in becoming an ARRL Certified PIO shouldplan on attending (if you are concerned that you missed Part 1, youshould come anyway and they will work out a solution to get you theinformation that you missed).

WHAT- ARRL PIO Certification Class

WHEN -Saturday, Nov. 15th and Sunday, Nov. 16th from 8AM to 5PMWHERE - 431 Stardust Place, Alameda, CA 94501 (on the old Naval AirStation)

There is plenty of free parking available. If you are coming from along distance, you may want to make your own lodging arrangements inAlameda.

For more information contact Suellene Petersen, K6CPA, at: <suellene@suellenesdelight.com>.

ARRL East Bay SectionSection Manager: James R Latham, AF6AQaf6aq@arrl.org

IN THIS ISSUE

ARRL PIO Certification Class----------1
Club Meeting Minutes----------1
4M Moon Orbiter flyby----------2
WWII Radioman StillConnecting----------2
Old Tech Gets New Respect----------3
Will 5NN TU Kill Cw?----------3&4
Biggest SunSpot in 24 Years---------- 5
Application and Misc----------8

Happy Halloween

VVRC Meeting Notes

VVRC 2014 Annual Christmas Dinner

Date: Oct 29, 2014 12:27 AM

Skip has a computer problem so he asked if I could alert members to the upcoming event ASAP. As to plan ahead.

It's on!! Mark your calendars. The annual ARRL December dinner is back!!

It's a done deal, all set up with a reserved room. No problem, was easy.

It will be held at the Fairfield "Home Town Buffet". Repeat, the Fairfield HTB branch. Thursday, 11 December, 7pm.

They have a nice back room for get-togethers. A few years ago we went there every year when it was JJ North's.Great location and is easy to get to. It's same place we all planned and agreed on last year,,, but didn't happen.

Bob H and I went there last month and had a nice dinner. Note: They didn't have BBQ ribs that night so we couldn't rate them.Everything else was good. Bob and I tried a little of everything.I advised the president and he asked me to take care of it. I did, and bingo, we're all setup, easy, for this years December meeting!!!

Again, Dinner time is 7pm, or 19:00hrs. Just come in and go to the cashier and pay. Also tell them you're here for the club meeting in the back.

The total price is $15.73 per person. That includes, dinner, beverage, gratuity, and tax. We're looking forward to a nice gathering of members, wive's, girlfriends, (not both) guests, etc.

I understand there will be the usual year end club drawing, but I have no information on bringing stuff for a raffle this year. Maybe I can find out more about it later, & I'll pass it on. Hopefully, just small and inexpensive items like we did a couple years back would be great.

Any ideas, pass them on.

Just mark your calendar and plan on showing up and having a nice time, like we all used to.

Respectfully submitted by
Tom Cristman, KE6MDM for,
"Skip" Lawson – AF6HC

4M Moon Orbiter Completes Lunar Flyby

The recently launched 4M (Manfred Memorial Moon Mission) Amateur Radio payload completed its loop around the moon on October 28 between 0030 and 0215 UTC. Among the 13-character onboard messages posted prior to launch was a encomium for Manfred Fuchs, to whom LUXspace dedicated the mission. Fuchs was the founder of LUXspace parent OHB. Roland Zurmely, PY4ZBZ, the first station to receive the 4M signal, was also the first to piece together the 158 JT65B 13-character messages comprising dedication, which described Fuchs as playing "an outstanding role in the European space industry over the last decades." Fuchs died earlier this year at the age of 75

The 4M payload downlink is on 2 meters (145.980 ±Doppler shift), transmitting continuously at a power of 1.5 W into a quarter-wave monopole. For its first 12 hours, the 4M payload was powered by rechargeable batteries. It then switched automatically to non-rechargeable high-energy density cells. Even as the spacecraft is on its return trajectory, receiving the signal requires a high-gain antenna. Stations in the Southern Hemisphere have the best chance of hearing the 4M payload. Radio amateurs have been encouraged to receive and report the spacecraft's signals.

As of October 29, the spacecraft was some 255,000 miles from Earth. A 4M tracking calculator and payload blog also are available.

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB--2013

ELECTED OFFICERS

President: Mike Vieria, W6MAV
Vice President: Jerry Olive, KD6WKY
Secretary: Skip Lawson, AF6HC
Treasurer: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Director: Antonio DelRio, N6ZGB
Director: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Director: Arthur Miller, KI6UXE
Director: Richard Craig, KJ6MIB

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Net Control Chairperson: Chris Jones, KD7TQO
Club Activities Chairperson: Board of Directors
Newsletter Editor: Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
Newsletter Publisher & Distributor: Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Service & Sacrifice: WWII radio man still connecting

Kayhart, Charles C, W4KKP

By: *WBIR reporter Jim Matheny.*

Bumper stickers call for us to "live our passion" and that is what Charles Kayhart continues to do at age 103.

"Well, I like to talk to people from all over the world," said the WWII veteran sitting in front of his home-built bank of ham radios.

"Japan, China, any place you can think of— some of them are veterans. We talk about where they were during the war," said Mr. Kayhart.

He was already an expert in radio when he joined the United States Army Signal Corps. in World War II. Mr. Kayhart had attended training in electronics at Harvard and M.I.T. before he learned military brass wanted to send him to the Island of Iwo Jima to build a communication network in preparation for an invasion of Japan.

"That flag waving on Iwo Jima, I will never forget that," said Mr. Kayhart recalling the famous flag raised by U.S. Marines on Mount Suribachi. During his service on that small island he witnessed more history in the sky, catching a glimpse of the Enola Gay B-29 as it flew over hours before it dropped the first nuclear blast on Japanese soil.

After his military service he clocked almost 30 years at radio and television manufacturer Magnovox.

Before his wife passed away, their marriage lasted more than 70 years. At age 103, Mr. Kayhart still mows his own lawn, takes care of his own garden and often takes a few minutes to have a conversation on his radio set-up with a stranger half a world away.

"Just sort of have a conversation about what they're doing and what I'm doing," said Mr. Kayhart

Ham radio: Old technology gets new respect

Ham radio gaining new support in digital era

By Jonathan Serrie

Published May 19, 2014-FoxNews.

ATLANTA – Seeking reliable backup communication in a crisis, emergency managers are finding new solutions in an old technology: ham radio.

"It's just another avenue, another opportunity for us to be able to communicate," said Herb Schraufnagel, public safety captain with Emory University Hospital Midtown.

Emory HealthCare is among a growing number of hospital systems to adopt ham radio. Hospital administrators and government officials took a lesson from Hurricane Katrina, which left some Gulf Coast medical centers isolated from the outside world, as landlines and cell towers failed.

When power, phone and Internet services go down, a battery-powered amateur radio and portable antenna can provide that crucial link to the outside world.

"Ham radio will never die," said Barry Thomas, Sr., a ham radio enthusiast and employee at Emory University Hospital Midtown.

"The quickest means of communication is Morse Code. It'll get out when none of this will," Thomas said, referring to a room filled with computers and smartphones.'

"It is interesting that some of the technology that has been around for 80, 90, 100 years is still relevant," said John Davis, a ham radio enthusiast.

In addition to major hurricanes, Davis says the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 rekindled interest in ham radio as a public safety tool.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) has set up a permanent ham radio station in its command center.

"We look at ham radio operators just like GEMA staff, just like DOT staff and Georgia State Patrol staff," said GEMA Director Charlie English. "They are a critical partner with us."

The number of ham radio licenses is at an all-time high in the U.S. (723,182, as of April, according to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) data compiled by Joe Speroni of the Amateur Radio Education Web Site, ah0a.org.

"I really hope that it stays relevant and that we can be a resource to emergency management agencies," enthusiast Davis said. "Because I think that is where ham radio shines."

Fox News producer David Lewkowict contributed to this article.

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM 420 Elmira Fire Station.

Wheelchair accessible

Will 5NN TU Kill CW?

The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the editorial views of CQ orits management. —W2VU

A frequent topic today among older hams is the decline in the number of operators who seem interested in having a QSO whose purpose is real conversation. Fewer hams seem to want to do that these days. This clearly mirrors a well-identified trend in our society, especially among younger people. Reports abound of teenagers sending 3,300 text messages per month. And these are people whose brains are not yet fully formed. The entire smart-phone industry seems dedicated to making the increasingly trivial easier and easier.

Psychologists and sociologists are worried that this trend will result in an entire generation of young adults who will never develop the inter-personal communication skills necessary to cultivate normal human relationships. Technology is supposed to be our servant, not our master. But in this case, technology has the minds, if not the hearts, of too many people. It is clear that waves from this trend

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: vacavalleyradio.net

Club repeater in Vacaville:W6VVR 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!

Additional local repeaters
WV6F 224.200(-)
WV6F 440.025(+)
WV6F 1291.900(-)

among our youth wash up on our shore as well. Too many contacts seem to consist only of an exchange of call signs and signal reports, and even those often are abbreviated, with "599, thank you" on CW being shortened even further to "5NN TU."

What is a Radio For?

At its heart, a lot of this has to do with what one thinks a radio is for. In days gone by, you turned on your rig, waited for the tubes' filaments to warm up, listened to the bands, and hoped you could find someone with whom to have a contact. For me, my radio was a tool to facilitate helping me get to know someone else. I am speaking here about HF bands where this kind of communication has historically taken place, and more specifically about CW. There are other worthy and more technical aspects of radio in which the nature of the activity is not "having a chat."

How did "5NN TU" get started? A DXpedition wants to maximize the number of QSOs so a short exchange allows the operators to maximize the rate. A contester in "run" mode (calling CQ and working as many stations as possible) has the same logic: short, fast exchanges mean a higher QSO rate. We would all likely agree that these are totally understandable. For both, "5NN TU" has become the standard exchange.

I want to add this before anyone gets excited: do not mean in any way to have anyone construe these comments as saying something bad about either chasing DX or contesting, both of which enjoy. Sometimes people get into a contest on a given weekend simply because of the activity. They know there will be other hams on the air with whom they can have a little fun. They don't expect anyone to stop and make a new friend. I do not mean to criticize "5NN TU" as it is part of those activities. My concerns are about contacts in which QSO rate is not a critical element.

I also acknowledge that personality type plays a role in this. Some people are highly gregarious while others are more reticent. So it is not a matter of difference in style as much as it is a reflection of the preferences of individual operators. Ability enters into this, too. An operator who is skilled in CW at 15 wpm is going be a little intimidated when he hears someone sending at 35 wpm. w6sj@arrl.net

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Human Involvement I cannot measure this, yet I sense that conversations seemed to have shortened even in just the last decade. Gradually, QSOs have devolved into giving a signal report, the op's name and QTH, and the weather. That is almost nothing about the op himself! In the case of data mode- users, many cps even use macros to send this information. That reduces operator involvement to hitting a tab on a computer screen!

I'm sorry! Transmission of data without human involvement is not the objective here, and I don't think it is what ham radio ought to be about. Communication is about people! Getting to know other people is the best part of what ham radio offers and we ought not let it slip away. So please consider recommitting yourself to what I consider the best part of ham radio. Turn on the rig mid-week, daytime or evening. If you can't hear anyone, it doesn't mean they aren't listening. Call CO and you might be surprised at what happens. If you are an experienced operator and someone responds at a lower speed than you are used to, slow down and engage at a rate the other op is comfortable with.

If you are a newer op and are still improving your skills, do not hesitate to respond to someone calling CQ at a higher speed than you are comfortable with. If you listen and all you hear are "5NN TU" exchanges, wait fora few minutes. Remember that we older guys probably got our licenses back in the day when you had to be able to copy at least 13 wpm to get a license for the HF bands. Now that learning Morse Code is optional, most of us are excited about newer hams who are committed to learning CW. We want to encourage you.

Old or new, try to engage the other guy by volunteering more information about yourself. Sure, some will say, "5NN TU," and that's the end of it. But as is the case with all friendships, until you get to know someone, you don't know whether you will like them or not. You never know what the other operator is like, nor will he know anything about you, unless you exchange information. It takes an investment in time and energy to create a friendship.

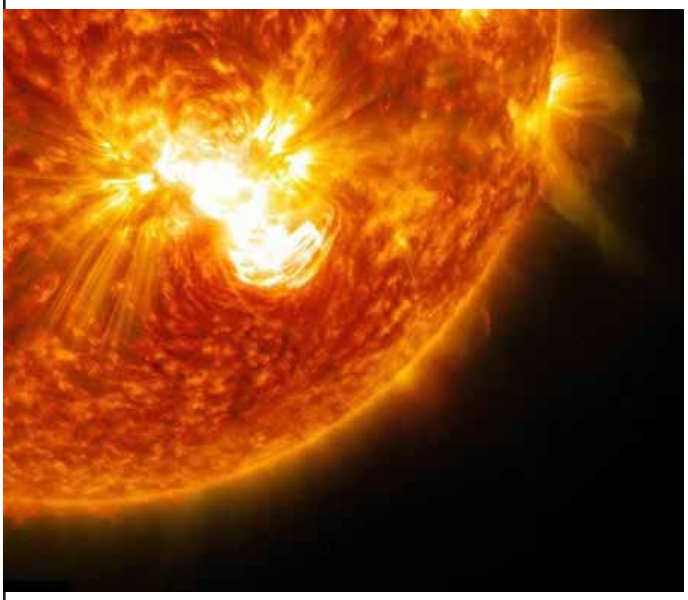
THE BIT BUCKET

Huge Solar Flare Erupts from Biggest *Sunspot in 24 Years*

by Tariq Malik, SPACE.com Managing Editor | October 25, 2014 06:37am ET

The biggest sunspot on the face of the sun in more than two decades unleashed a major flare on Friday (Oct. 24), the fourth intense solar storm from the active star in less than a week.

The solar flare occurred Friday afternoon, reaching its peak at 5:41 p.m. EDT (2141 GMT), and triggered a strong radio blackout at the time, according to the U.S. Space Weather Prediction Center. The flare erupted from a giant active sunspot known as AR 12192 and was classified as an X3.1-class solar storm — one of the most powerful types of solar storms on the sun — but it is not the first time the sunspot has made its presence known.



A massive X3.1 solar flare erupts from the giant sunspot AR 12192 on Oct. 24, 2014 in this close-up view from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory, a spacecraft that constantly watches Earth's nearest star. Credit: NASA/SDO

"This is the fourth substantial flare from this active region since Oct. 19," NASA spokesperson Karen Fox wrote in a status update. [Biggest Solar Flares of 2014 in This full-disk image of the sun shows the location of the major X3.1 solar flare (lower right) on Oct. 24, 2014.

The solar flare erupted from the largest sunspot on the sun in 24 years.

Indeed, on Sunday (Oct. 19), the sunspot fired off a major X1.1-class solar flare, then followed it up with an intense M8.7-class flare on Wednesday (Oct. 22) that was followed that same day by an X1.6 event.

Sunspots are regions of the sun forged by shifting magnetic fields that are cooler than their surrounding solar material, giving them their dark, blemish-like appearance. Sunspot AR 12192 dwarfs the Earth and is comparable to Jupiter in its size, according to solar astrophysicist C. Alex Young with NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, who described the sunspot in his blog The Sun Today.

The sunspot is the largest of its kind since November 1990, and is larger than a monster sunspot that spawned a series of major solar flares over Halloween in 2003, Young wrote.

And on Thursday (Oct. 23), the sunspot was hard to miss during a spectacular partial solar eclipse that was visible from North America. Many of the skywatchers who captured photos of the solar eclipse remarked on the surprising sight of a giant sunspot on the face of the sun.

"This was my first time photographing a solar eclipse and I was thrilled to capture the sunspots as well," skywatcher Mark Ezell of Austin, Texas, wrote in an email on Thursday.

X-class solar flares are the most powerful eruptions on the sun. When aimed directly at Earth, X-class flares can potentially pose a danger to astronauts and spacecraft in space, and interfere with navigation, radio and communications signals. M-class flares are ranked as moderate sun storms that can supercharge the Earth's aurora displays. There are also weaker classes of solar storms that have little effect on Earth, including C-class, B-class and even A-class storms.

"Solar flares are powerful bursts of radiation," Fox wrote in the NASA update. "Harmful radiation from a flare cannot pass through Earth's atmosphere to physically affect humans on the ground, however — when intense enough — they can disturb the atmosphere in the layer where GPS and communications signals travel."

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen; KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Richard Craig; KJ6MIB
3rd week of month-Chris Jones; KD7TQO
4th week of month-Marcus MacLean; KI6WDX
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt; K6HEW

Election of Club Officers

Don't forget to attend the November 13 meeting at the Elmira Fire Department to elect your club officers for 2015.

How to accomplish a false sense of security at home

1. Tear out your alarm system

2. De-registered from the Neighborhood Watch.

3. Raise two Pakistani flags in your front yard, one at each corner

4. Rise the black flag of ISIS in the center

Result: The local police, CHP and other intelligence services will all be watching your house 24/7.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely Dues are delinquent January 1st

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street: _____

City: _____Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues	$20.00	_____
Each Family Member	$ 2.00	_____
Student	$ 5.00	_____
Repeater/Autopatch donation		_____
Call/Name badge	$11.00	_____

Optional ARRL membership

ARRL dues	$37.00	
Total		_____

Paid by CASH: Check # _____

DATE: _____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143